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5-11-1824

Letter to R. M. Caldecott

G.W. Marriott

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May 11. 1824

K. O. 240511

Copy

My dear Robt.

I never saw your letter till Post-time had very nearly arrived, & could only send the printed paper of Bishop H. to you, as a proof that amity & union were restored between him & Bp. L. I now proceed, according to my promise, to detail certain facts, which will do away all doubt on the subject. When I knew Bp. H. only by having dined once in his company, a correspondence took place between a friend of the Bp. and myself, on the subject of the questions then on the tapis between him & Bp. L., & my correspondent having sent my letters to Bp. H., the Bp. called on me. He expressed his approbation of my sentiments, especially with reference to an endeavor to quench, by some conciliatory measure, those unhappy feelings which otherwise might lead to a mischievous schism in an infant Church. This was followed by our instantly drawing up preliminaries of peace, on the observance of which Bp. H. undertook to support, instead of opposing, the subscription for Ohio. The single item of union, between the general Seminary & Ohio for subscriptions, was objected to by Bp. L., who cordially hailed the opportunity & prospect of peace. I own I did not then feel convinced that this objection was necessary, tho' I had no doubt of the Bp.'s full & most conscientious persuasion that it was so. I am now entirely of the same opinion, without an iota of doubt attaching to the subject, & further believe that the object of union would have been defeated, rather than promoted, by insisting for subscriptions, especially in America, where two parties already existed, & this measure would have created a third. That this single objection did not prevent the treaty Bp. H.'s printed paper fully shews.

The principal objection of Bp. H. to the measures of Bp. L.

For of no personal difference have we heard were, as expressed in his published letter, "the expediency of avoiding all application to a foreign source" for the American Church, "a sentiment of national pride which renders many averse to our Church, lowering herself to the attitude of a supplicant for foreign bounty", and the hope that "if this office, so humiliating to the Church, must be performed, it would not be assumed by one of her highest Officers." These objections would have ceased, if no reconciliation had occurred, having been removed by Bishop Hobart's newly adopted line of conduct.

On the queries you suggest I could say much. The reception of Bp. L. by the Heads of our Hierarchy has certainly been most encouraging. A prejudice had been created in the mind of the Primate, who conceived the authority of the House of Bishops was excluded by the Constitution of the Ohio Seminary; & the Archbp. of York thought that Bp. L's Diocese was within the province of New York, & consequently that Bp. H's authority was decisive & ought to regulate the question. On both these points their Graces were better informed by the Bishop, & both immediately promised their support to his measure. The Bps. of London, Durham, St. David's, St. Asaph, Chester, Lichfield & Limerick have since done so, and the rest of the Bench will be addressed without delay. The Bishop of Durham has declared his subscription, which will be £100. The Countess Dowager of Rosse has sent £200, & £100 to the Bishop for his personal benefit, which he has requested to be allowed to apply to the erection of a chapel for the College in Ohio. The highest orders are daily more & more, as they are informed of the subscription, encouraging the measure. All I know of Mr Morris's present feelings is from Lord Kenyon, who told me that he met Mr. N. at Lambeth on Saturday, where he said he would support Bishop Chase, if he would unite with Bishop Hobart for subscriptions. On this

Lord K. observed that there could be no objection remaining in Mr. M.'s mind
on the score of principle.

I heartily wish success to your exertions for Bp. Chase's
measure. His object appears to me most truly Christian; and, while
his Missionary ardor is beyond any modern example. I know, I
cannot discern a spark of fanaticism either in his principles or feelings.
As to the dissensions alluded to it is hardly fair to consider him
a party ~~to~~ ⁱⁿ them. They neither in the smallest degree originated
with him, nor were adopted by him. He has not resorted to recrimination,
nor even to self-vindication, tho' to my knowledge, goaded to both
these by Friends in England, and by Friends and Relations in
America; but has acted up to the spirit of every profession so
uniformly made in favor of ^{union &} peace; & has thus, I have not the least
doubt, best consulted the welfare of the whole Church, & the prosperity
of his measure for the benefit of his own Diocese.

I am yrs affectly

G. W. M.

Queen Square
May 11th 1824

To Robert Inamick Caldecott Esq

Brazenose Coll:

Oxford

Mr. Thewiss

1st Dec

My dear Mr. Thewiss

May 11th 1824

Alice Chase Collection

Kenyon
College
Library

My dear Robert. I never saw your letter till Posttime had
very nearly arrived, & could only send the printed paper
of Bp H to you as a proof that unity and union
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union & peace; and has thus, I have not the least
doubt, best consulted the welfare of the whole Church
and the prosperity of his measure for the benefit of his
own Diocese.

I am yours Affectionately

London May 11.th 1824

This is a copy of a
letter written by
Geo. Thurston Merritt
to his nephew's letter
Robert Colver
Amherst College
May 11. 1824